

67-5-16 Child protective services investigators within attorney general's office -- Authority -- Training.

- (1) The attorney general may employ, with the consent of the Division of Child and Family Services within the Department of Human Services, and in accordance with Section 62A-4a-202.6, child protective services investigators to investigate alleged instances of abuse or neglect of a child that occur while a child is in the custody of the Division of Child and Family Services. Those investigators may also investigate reports of abuse or neglect of a child by an employee of the Department of Human Services, or involving a person or entity licensed to provide substitute care for children in the custody of the Division of Child and Family Services.
- (2) Attorneys who represent the Division of Child and Family Services under Section 67-5-17, and child protective services investigators employed by the attorney general under Subsection (1), shall be trained on and implement into practice the following items, in order of preference and priority:
 - (a) the priority of maintaining a child safely in the child's home, whenever possible;
 - (b) the importance of:
 - (i) kinship placement, in the event the child is removed from the home; and
 - (ii) keeping sibling groups together, whenever practicable and in the best interests of the children;
 - (c) the preference for kinship adoption over nonkinship adoption, if the parent-child relationship is legally terminated;
 - (d) the potential for a guardianship placement if the parent-child relationship is legally terminated and no appropriate adoption placement is available; and
 - (e) the use of an individualized permanency goal, only as a last resort.

Amended by Chapter 171, 2013 General Session